

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01012 171415Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1012

EXDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PFOR, DA, US
SUBJ: POST-ELECTION CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER

REF : COPENHAGEN 808

1. THE QUEEN'S ANNUAL RECEPTION YESTERDAY EVENING (FEB 16) GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN. I ASKED HIM WHAT HIS PLANS WERE FOR ESTABLISHING A NEW GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT'S SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE AT THE POLLS ON FEB 15.

2. ANKER JORGENSEN SAID THAT HE SINCERELY HOPES TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME OF THE SMALLER PARTIES INCLUDED IN THE CABINET. QUITE FRANKLY, HOWEVER, HE DOUBTED THAT THE OTHER PARTIES WOULD WISH TO PARTICIPATE. AFTER THIS PROBABLY UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO FORM A FORMAL COALITION, JORGENSEN WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO GOVERN WITH AN ALL-SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CABINET. (THE LORD MAYOR OF COPENHAGEN LATTER COMMENTED TO ME THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS THEMSELVES ARE NOT TOO EAGER TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CENTER-RIGHT PARTIES IN THE CABINET BECAUSE THE LEFT MIGHT THEN BE ABLE TO ATTACK PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN AS THE "PRISONER OF THE RIGHTEST PARTIES.")

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3. ANKER JORGENSEN SAID THAT THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE SOME CABINET CHANGES, POINTING OUT THAT SOME OF THE MINISTERS PRESENTLY HOLD TWO PORTFOLIOS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE IS ALSO MINISTER FOR FISHERIES, AND THESE TWO IMPORTANT POSTS SHOULD BE HELD SEPARATELY. THROUGHOUT JORGENSEN'S CONVERSATION, IT WAS CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT HE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AS PRIME MINISTER. AS A MATTER

OF FACT, I HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM AS SURE OF HIMSELF AS HE WAS LAST NIGHT.

4. I THEN ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE THE US ATTACHES TO REACHING A NEW AGREEMENT BEFORE THE PRESENT ONE EXPIRES MARCH 31. I SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE EASIER FOR HIM NOW TO PROCEED WITH PUTTING THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO NATO AT THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY TO A VOTE IN THE FOLKETING SINCE THE OPPONENTS OF THE AGREEMENT, THE RADICALS, HAD BEEN DECIMATED AT THE POLLS. THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT DENY THIS BUT OBSERVED THAT THE RADICALS HAD NOT -- REPEAT NOT -- MADE DEFENSE A REAL ISSUE IN THE ELECTION. HENCE THE RADICALS SET-BACK WAS NOT PRIMARILY DUE TO THEIR OPPOSITION TO DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

5. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR SECRETARY VANCE TO STOP IN COPENHAGEN EITHER ON HIS WAY TO OR FROM MOSCOW. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE EFFORTS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SUGGESTING SUCH A STOP-OVER (COPENHAGEN 808). I SAID I WOULD TRANSMIT HIS THOUGHTS TO THE DEPARTMENT.

6. COMMENT: THE TENOR OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARK REFLECTED HIS FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US. HE SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT THE BRIEF TRAINING HE TOOK AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY FINANCED BY THE US GOVERNMENT ZACK IN THE LATE 1950'S. IT HAD GIVEN HIM A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE AMERICAN CONFIDENTIAL

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WAY OF LIFE. HE REFERRED TO THE "CLOUDS" OF THE INDOCHINA WAR WHICH HAD NOW BLOWN OVER AND MADE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES POSSIBLE ON ALL IMPORTANT MATTERS. DEAN

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